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result that the villagers are tempted to use the money otherwise, which results in the Government penalising them for not sinking the wells properly, and will the Government see that suitable subsidy is given to the agriculturists with reference to the actual cost of sinking the wells? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" A similar question was put by Mr. Ramasamy Padayachi but if the Hon. Minister is prepared to answer the question, I have no objection."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Nobody compels the applicant to proceed with the work, if he finds it unremunerative."

SRI V. RAMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, in proportion to the amount of money spent over this scheme, whether the Government think that the results obtained have been satisfactory? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Generally, satisfactory results have been obtained but in some cases good results may not be got."

Starvation deaths in Chittoor and Anantapur districts.

* 232-A Q.—SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any information about the starvation deaths that have occurred in Chittoor and Anantapur districts during the last two months; and

(b) if not, whether the Government will get reports from the concerned district officials regarding starvation deaths in Penumoor firka of Chittoor district and Kadiri taluk in Anantapur district?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) No reports of starvation deaths have been received from Anantapur district. However, during the recent tour of the Chief Minister in Chittoor district, an allegation was made to him that there were 23 cases of starvation deaths in Penumoor firka of the district.

" (b) The Collector of Chittoor has enquired into the allegations of starvation deaths in Penumoor firka of Chittoor district and found them to be false. A report will be called for from the Collector of Anantapur in respect of the allegation relating to Kadiri taluk."

SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH :—" In view of the fact that people in these villages, where famine deaths have occurred, have given statements to that effect to me, and in view of the fact that a large number of statements have also appeared in the Press, will the Government take the statement of the villagers as the starting point and conduct an enquiry into the question of malnutrition obtaining in the districts of Anantapur and Chittoor? "

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" A detailed investigation was made by the Collector of Chittoor in the Penumoor firka and the following facts have been ascertained as a result of that investigation : In the area where it was alleged that there had been starvation deaths, in the period of two months, there were three deaths, one of which was at Somireddipalle on the 31st May 1952 ; it was an accidental death of a person of sixty due to a fall from a tree. In Kannikapuram, a destitute was found dead in a sugarcane garden and the post-mortem examination revealed that death was due to asphyxia and the third case was the death of a Muslim boy of Penumoor who was suffering from chronic leprosy and this happened in the last week of May. There were no other deaths in those villages. The village officers and the villagers concerned were questioned and they all denied that there was any starvation death in the villages. Under these circumstances, I do not think that there is any necessity of having a fresh enquiry."

10–50 a.m. SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Are the Government aware that in Madanapalle, there was a case of starvation death? It was reported in the Press not only by the Communist Member of this House, who is here, but also by the Secretary of the Town Congress Committee who was present at that place when that death took place. So, Sir, in view of all those facts made on the floor of the House now and also in view of those things that have appeared in the Press, may I request the Government to see that when such inquiries are conducted by their officers, they are instructed to conduct them in the presence of those people who have made those allegations, so that the villagers may come forward and declare what actually took place without any fear or intimidation? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, there is no question of fear and intimidation. I repudiate that suggestion. As for Madanapalle, it is not covered by this question."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Madanapalle is in Chittoor district."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I know it, Sir; there was a specific allegation of starvation deaths in Penumoor firka of Chittoor district and Kadiri taluk in Anantapur district. We made the enquiry and the allegation was found to be false. Now if the hon. Member says that there was another starvation death at Madanapalle I am prepared to call for a report."

Applications for takkavi loans from the agriculturists of Anantapur district.

* 233 *Q.*—SRI K. V. VEMA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state the number of applications received from the agriculturists for takkavi and subsistence loans which are now pending disposal in Anantapur district?